



City of Harrisonburg
Public Information Office
345 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
540-432-8931 FAX 540-432-7778

For Immediate Release
May 20, 2013

Contact: Jamie Fultz, Sewer Program Manager
540.434.9959

Sewer System Testing Takes Place This Week

Harrisonburg, VA – The City of Harrisonburg Public Utilities Department will conduct testing on portions of the sanitary sewer system this week. These tests will evaluate the city-operated sewer system.

Testing will take place May 20 through June 28.

This phase of testing will take place on the east side of Interstate 81, from Port Republic Road to Ramblewood Road and east to the City limits.

Employees with Public Utilities will release a non-toxic and non-staining test smoke into the manholes, which will travel through the sanitary sewer in order to detect any potential breaks or leaks in the system.

It is recommended to go ahead and pour one gallon of water into the drain traps of floors, sinks, showers, and tubs to help prevent sewer gases or smoke from entering the home or business.

Residents should expect to see smoke being released from roof top plumbing vents as this is an indication of a properly installed plumbing system.

Some of the non-toxic smoke could enter the residence, if there is a defect in the plumbing of a home. When this occurs, there is no need to contact emergency services. It is recommended to open a window or door for ventilation, note the location of the smoke, and contact a qualified plumber.

Anyone with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions should not stay in a building, where smoke has entered as a precautionary measure.

Residents with questions regarding the testing procedures may contact the Department of Public Utilities at 540-434-9959 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

***The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 50,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.*

###